ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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An asphalt roofing composition is provided in the form of a roll or a shingle in which a hot mixture of an asphaltic base and filler is applied to a substrate form, wherein the composition also comprises an amount of Ca(OH)₂ (HL) in order to impart strength and durability to the composition. The composition contains HL between about 1-10%, and preferably between about 3-5%, of the total composition by weight. The filler can be fly ash, CaCO₃, MgCO₂ CaCO₃, MgCO₃, or other suitable materials known in the art. In a typical embodiment of the invention, the HL is added directly to the asphaltic base of the composition either with the filler, or with filler added after mixing the asphalt and HL.